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SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

196
April 7, 1938

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I want every person in our official family circle to know what is going on in the Soil Conservation Service.

Read this first issue of SERVICE NEWS. See that others have an opportunity to read it.

The idea of SERVICE NEWS developed from a growing sense of need on the part of numerous administrative officers, both in the field and in Washington.

There are many little odds and ends required for a proper background understanding of our organization and its work: administrative pointers, interoffice news items, bureau relationships, pending legislation, informational nuggets. These are proper topics for personal conferences, telephone conversations, informal memoranda; but, scattered as we are, comparatively few may share in these things. They, therefore, become equally proper topics for SERVICE NEWS, which will seek to bridge some of the gaps and to assist in smooth operation.

The NEWS is for the organization itself -- in no sense, a news release or for outside consumption. Mr. Brink informs me that until experience has shaped a more definite policy he will welcome a wide range of brief, factual material. -- H. H. BENNETT

FLASHES FROM THE LOS ANGELES FLOOD AREA

The recent heavy rains around Los Angeles provided the most severe tests to which erosion control work in that area had ever been subjected, according to reports received by R. H. Davis, Head of the Section of Flood Control Surveys, from H. E. Reddick, Regional Conservator at Santa Paula.

After making preliminary studies immediately following the rains, Mr. Reddick stated that all types of control work including basin listing, cover crops, diversion ditches, terraces, vegetative and mechanical gully control work stood up remarkably well. Structural failures were less than 2 percent, as compared with exceptionally high losses incurred by some public works such as roads, bridges, etc. Erosion controls were

most effective where supported by vegetation.

There was a marked difference in the extent of erosion on farms cooperating with the Service as compared with non-cooperators. Fields where no protection was afforded showed extremely heavy losses from sheet and gully erosion. Some valuable orchard lands were virtually ruined by heavy deposits of erosion debris washed in from higher lying areas. These deposits in places amounted to as much as five feet over considerable areas.

Mr. Reddick reports further that interest in soil conservation work has greatly increased since the rains, and the Service is now being swamped with requests to help farmers plan and execute erosion control operations on their farms.

The Department of Agriculture has under way a flood control survey of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Santa Ana watersheds, to be made under the authority given in the Omnibus Flood Control Act of 1936, in which the Soil Conservation Service is assisting. In addition, several bureaus of the Department are making independent studies in the flooded area of special problems of bureau interest. This Service is making a comprehensive study of sedimentation damage to both rural and urban areas, together with one which involves the accumulation of hydraulic data, including run-off and peak flows by tributary watersheds of the area. All studies by the agencies of the Department are being coordinated by the Department's Field Flood Control Coordinating Committee consisting of E. I. Kotok, Forest Service, E. E. Wilson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Mr. Reddick, representing this Service.

A PROBLEM MATURES

"Thief of Civilization," an article by the Chief, appears in the April issue of Holland's magazine. In it he describes the growth, in a single decade, of the problem of soil and water conservation from a position of insignificant national concern to the status of a national policy; and concludes by stating that, in his estimation, the American people have too much business sense and too much inventiveness not to find ways of preserving their most indispensable resource -- the soil.

JONES GOES TO REGION 7

Recently announced was the appointment of A. E. Jones, Regional Conservationist with headquarters at Rapid City, S. D., in the Northwest Region, to be Acting Regional Conservator of Region 7. Walter V. Kell, of the Section of Agronomy and Range Management in Washington, accompanied Mr. Jones to Salina, Kans., to act as head of the same section in the Central Great Plains Region.

Prior to his connection with the Soil Conservation Service, Mr. Jones was for many years a county agent in Kansas, and later directed the Farm Management Department of a trust company at Abilene. Mr. Kell came to the

Service from Indiana, where he served with the Extension Service in charge of county agent work in that State.

CHANGES AT HEADQUARTERS

The following appointments to the Washington staff were officially confirmed by the Chief's office during the past fortnight:

Dillon S. Myer to be Assistant Chief of the Service, in which capacity he will serve as an executive officer and advisor on questions of policy, in addition to acting with full responsibility in the Chief's absence.

H. D. Abbot to be Assistant to the Chief. Mr. Abbot will continue in charge of C. C. C. Operations, coordinating the activities of the Service's 361 camps, and acting as liaison officer between the C. C. C. organization and the technical sections of the S. C. S.

J. Phil Campbell to be Chief of the Division of Cooperative Relations and Planning, directing the Service's working relationships with other Federal departments and bureaus, with State and local agencies, and with the public through the Section of Information.

F. J. Hopkins to be Chief of the Division of Administration, the new unit which combines the activities of the former Personnel and Business Management divisions.

Samuel Goodacre to be Assistant Chief of the Division of Administration.

GRASS TO GRASS IN ONE REEL

"Grass Land," the second film to be made by the Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Division of Motion Pictures; had its first Washington showing two weeks ago. Like its predecessor, "Muddy Waters," it was shot in the Southwest Region by Al Jarrett, Region 8's cinematographer. The narrative was supplied by Richard L. Boke, head of the Division of Education and Information at Albuquerque.

A one-reel short, "Grass Land" presents in rapid sequence the Southern Great Plains in their native state, covered with tall, waving prairie grasses and grazed by herds of buffalo; the coming of the settlers with their sheep, cattle and horses and the gradual disappearance of vegetation due to overgrazing and drought; the resultant destruction of the land itself when torrential rains washed and gullied the bare, baked earth. From this grim picture of erosion at its worst; the film works backward through soil-saving measures of contour furrowing, revegetation, stock-pond construction, and fencing until its final scenes are again of grass-covered plains and well-nourished livestock.

A future film in the series will show the effects of wind erosion, and measures taken by the Service for its prevention.

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TALK TREES FOR GREAT PLAINS

A conference of representatives of the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service met in Denver last month to work out a joint program for controlling wind erosion in the Great Plains. Windbreak tree planting and revegetation of lands stripped of their topsoil by continuous blowing were two important control measures discussed.

Regional Conservator A. E. McClymonds of Rapid City, S. D., reported that the Soil Conservation Service is conducting experiments with various types of grasses and kindred vegetation imported from Siberia and other countries where climatic conditions are severe, with a view to finding specimens suitable for planting in wind-erosion areas. To date, wheat grasses have proved most successful, Mr. McClymonds said.

R. S. Williams of Rapid City, D. Lukers and H. D. Petheram of Amarillo, Tex., Regional Conservator N. E. Winters of Salina, Kans., and H. C. Mitchell of Fort Worth, Tex., were other Soil Conservation representatives at the conference.

COMMITTEE TOLD OF RURAL RELIEF OPPORTUNITIES

The feasibility of employing rural relief labor in the Nation's expanded soil-conservation program was suggested by Mr. Bennett in a statement made

recently before the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Unemployment and Relief.

Many of the newly-created State soil conservation districts, Mr. Bennett said, will need labor as well as technical assistance if they are to establish prompt and effective measures for erosion control; and the Soil Conservation Service has discovered from past experience that relief labor, when efficiently directed, may satisfactorily be used in conservation work.

Citing the C. C. C. camp program, the employment of W. P. A. labor on Soil Conservation demonstration and work projects, and the Service's 1936 drought relief activities in the Great Plains, Mr. Bennett explained that erosion-control operations require neither skilled labor nor costly equipment and therefore provide a relatively inexpensive form of work relief.

The interrelation of soil erosion and rural impoverishment has long been apparent to the Soil Conservation Service, Mr. Bennett told the Committee. To illustrate, he described briefly conditions in the following communities studied by the Service:

- 1) A North Carolina county where 60 percent of the families living on land classified as "seriously eroded" were on relief.
- 2) The wind-erosion region of the Great Plains, deserted by thousands of farm families within recent years, where the Federal Government is reported to have spent more than \$130,000,000 from 1933 to 1936 in various forms of work and drought relief.
- 3) The Rio Grande Valley, where the ruination of irrigated farmland by debris washed down from overgrazed and eroded rangeland has reduced the population of a once self-sufficient community from 1,650 to 300 and necessitated large Federal expenditures for relief.
- 4) A group of counties in the South Carolina Piedmont, where 30 percent of all tax payments on eroded farms were delinquent over a five-year period.

"Erosion is not confined to the poorer and economically submarginal farms," Mr. Bennett said, "but its incidence is greatest and its effects most serious in the economically distressed areas of the country."

FIVE YEARS OF THE C. C. C.

April 5 marks the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the 361 C. C. C. camps working under the technical supervision of the Soil Conservation Service will celebrate the occasion with appropriate exercises. Most of them will keep open house, offering the public an opportunity to inspect both field work and camp sites.

Since April 1934 when the Service received its first allotment of camps, 53,260 farms, representing 9,184,086 acres of land, have signed cooperative agreements in C. C. C. demonstrations areas.

In addition to their erosion-control work on the Nation's farmlands, the Service's C. C. C. camps have given employment and educational opportunities to thousands of young men and War veterans, financial aid to their families and, by their purchases, have assisted those engaged in the production, manufacture, and distribution of supplies and equipment.

GROUP INSPECTION FOR BALANCED PROGRAM

In pursuance of a policy inaugurated several months ago, Charles R. Enlow, Thomas B. Chambers, and Ervin J. Utz, heads respectively of the Sections of Agronomy, Engineering, and Erosion Control Practices; Fred G. Renner of the Division of Conservation Operations; and Guy R. Stewart of the Research Division made a group inspection of California projects and camps in late February and early March.

The complete land-use program now in force on the farms of the Service's cooperators requires a proper balance of field crops, pasture, and woodland supplemented by engineering structures economical to build and to maintain. Therefore, it has been judged in the interests of the coordinated farm unit to have the heads of the divisions and sections concerned or their representatives visit the Regions, examine the work being done, discuss their joint problems, and make suggestions as a group.

The party's itinerary, which took them from Los Angeles to the projects and camps in the southern part of the State, thence north to Mendocino County and home by way of Sacramento, kept them one day ahead of the floods all along the route, though they traveled through a week of steady downpour.

SOIL LOSSES AND CROP YIELDS

The results of a survey made by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service have recently been published by the former under the title of "An Economic Study of Farming in Appomattox County, Virginia." Although the trained enumerators who visited farms in the county found it difficult to segregate erosion from other factors involved, they were able to state that those farms with little or no surface soil lost had crop yields of 8 percent above the average presented by those where more than one-quarter of the topsoil had been removed. In addition, land values were \$7.41 less an acre on the eroded farms.

Farmers cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service produced 77 more pounds of tobacco to the acre than did the non-cooperators, and had a

farm income that averaged \$232 higher, the investigators found.

W. L. Gibson, Jr., Assistant Agricultural Economist at the Station, prepared the bulletin.

CONSERVATORS MEET

The Service's eleven Regional Conservators arrived in Washington on the fourth of April for a week of conferences with the Chief and Division and Section Heads.

FILE FACILITIES IN SOUTH BUILDING

The chief of the mails and files unit, Mrs. Alice S. Madeley, wishes to announce that the installation of the branch of Central Files in the South Building has been completed. The invitation to visit and inspect this office is cordially extended to all Soil Conservation personnel.

It is located in Room 4724 and may be reached on Extension 4922.

In this sub-section will be filed all letters relating to policy, organization, procedure, reports, cooperation, and Districts programs; and all annual reports. In addition, the unit will provide special service with regard to jacket letters, telegrams, and coding of letters marked "personal."

WILDLIFE WEEK OBSERVED

By presidential proclamation the week of March 20-26 was set aside as Wildlife Restoration Week. This was not just "another week," sponsored by some particular interest, but the concrete expression of a nationwide concern over the conservation of a natural resource of aesthetic, recreational, and economic importance. The Soil Conservation Service in its short history has gained a prominent position among wildlife conservation agencies. Soil and wildlife conservation have an unusual opportunity to work hand in hand, since both depend so much for their success upon the reestablishment and maintenance of vegetation.

The fundamental needs of wildlife are cover, food and water. Cover provides a home and nesting site, protection from enemies and the elements, and a place to rest or sleep. Cover must be near a supply of water and appropriate food which is adequate at all seasons of the year. This is as true for fish as it is for birds and fur-bearers.

Operations of the Soil Conservation Service on American farms dedicate to wildlife specific eroded areas, such as galled spots, sink holes, gullies, eroding field borders, and cutting stream banks. These are planted to species of shrubs, vines, and herbaceous vegetation which not only control erosion but are selected for their wildlife food and cover value as well. Water for wildlife is provided by fencing farm ponds and planting

the pond and its environs to appropriate species of wildlife value.

Standard soil conservation practices also benefit wildlife. For instance, strip-cropping, shrub buffer strips, and windbreaks afford travel lanes and, together with shrub borders to new woodlot plantings, provide additional important "edge," where wildlife species tend to congregate; deferred and rotation grazing present nesting sites for ground birds; protection of woodlots and wildlife areas from fire and grazing and the preservation of vegetation along fence rows all increase wildlife habitats.

In such manner provision for wildlife is included in a soil conservation program; and the Service goes forward to carry out the word of Secretary Wallace who, in a 1937 radio address, said that "It is particularly important that the restoration and conservation of our wildlife resources be given recognition as a national obligation of great significance."

BULLETIN REVIEWED ON
RADIO HOUR

"What is Soil Erosion?", a new Department of Agriculture bulletin by C. F. Stewart Sharpe, Assistant Conservationist in the Research Division, was reviewed by Gordon K. Zimmerman on the Farm and Home Hour last week.

The Farm and Home Hour is presented daily from 12:30 to 1:30 E. S. T. by the National Broadcasting Co. over a coast-to-coast hook-up. Of that section of the program allotted to the Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Service occupies at present five minutes each week; and Mr. Zimmerman, in charge of press and radio, broadcasts from the N.B.C. studio in Washington. In recent weeks he has discussed the Service's work with range lands, pastures, and farm woodlands, and its studies of watersheds and climatic conditions.

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* This issue of SERVICE NEWS has been distribu- *

* ted to all who ordinarily receive field memo- *

* randa. It is anticipated that others will *

* wish to receive copies, and a limited number *

* of names can be added to the list. Any mem- *

* bers of the Service who feel that they will *

* profit by receiving it regularly may do so *

* by giving their names to their Section Head. *

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

April 27, 1938

THE REGIONAL CONSERVATORS MEET

In what was characterized by the Chief as "the most important meeting in the history of the Service," the Regional Conservators gathered in Washington during the week of April 4-9 to listen to talks by division and section heads and to discuss the future policy and administration of the Service.

Sessions of the conference were held twice daily in the South Building, supplemented by luncheon discussions and individual conferences, and were attended by an average of 50 members of the Washington personnel. All eleven of the Regional Conservators were present with the exception of J. S. Cutler, Region 3, who was represented by Assistant Conservator Kenneth Welton.

For the benefit of those unable to attend these meetings, SERVICE NEWS presents a summary, necessarily brief, of each day's program.

MONDAY'S SESSION

The Soil Conservation Service brings to its new program of work in cooperation with soil conservation districts a good organization, trained men, the experience gained in demonstration work, and the goodwill of a country aware of the seriousness of the erosion problem, the Chief said in his introductory remarks. Under the district plan, he continued, the Service will have a greater responsibility, a wider field of operation as it joins in a coordinate plan of land utilization for the whole Department of Agriculture which should ultimately establish security for our land and economic and social security for our people.

Monday was given over to a discussion of problems of administration and technical organization, with F. J. Hopkins and Samuel Goodacre, Chief and Assistant Chief of the Division of Administration, presiding. It was agreed that there should be a closer relationship between the technical and administrative sections both in Washington and in the field, and a certain flexibility of organization. With the Washington organization as a model, each Conservator should adapt

Benton, Miss Mildred

the set-up to his own Region, allowing his type of organization to develop naturally. The feeling was general that the Conservator should have fewer persons reporting directly to him, and diagrams of several suggested methods of achieving this end were drawn on the blackboard and discussed, particular attention being paid the duties of the Associate and Assistant Conservator and the State Coordinator.

C. B. Manifold, Chief of the Division of Conservation Operations, discussed the field organization in its relation to demonstration and district programs, and Austin L. Patrick, Chief of the Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, spoke on regional flood surveys and methods of conducting them. In his talk, Mr. Manifold mentioned that the School of Public Administration of a leading U. S. university is using the Soil Conservation Service organization as a model.

J. S. Barnes, of the Division of Conservation Operations, described the Arkansas Plan for cooperation with districts, explaining that Arkansas projects and camps were fortunately well distributed, and that it had therefore been possible to divide the State into seven areas, with projects, camps, and districts in each. When the demonstration projects work out, Mr. Barnes said, the old project staff will take over as the new area staff.

TUESDAY'S SESSION "Problems of conservation district operations and relations" was Tuesday's topic. The discussion, led by Chairmen Dillon S. Myer, Assistant Chief, and J. Phil Campbell, Chief of the Division of Cooperative Relations and Planning, centered about the report made to Mr. Bennett by the committee on relations with the districts. The report was read by T. L. Gaston, Head of the Section of Cooperative Planning, who described in detail the process of setting up the first district to be approved by the Department as a concrete illustration of how the Service will function in future. Mr. Myer stressed the necessity for helping the men in the field to make what he described as "the most important readjustment we shall ever face," as the Service assumes its new function as a planning, advising, and training agency.

Over-all district plans must be the result of surveys, E. A. Norton, Head of Conservation Surveys, explained, and as additional districts are formed, the 450 soil conservation surveyors in the U. S. today must be supplemented to provide an adequate force. Junior Soil Surveyors can be recruited from the agricultural schools, Mr. Norton suggested. H. C. Diener, Assistant Head of the Section of Erosion

Control Practices, discussed the amount and kind of assistance to be given to the districts by the Service, pointing out that planning, although it should not fall below the ideal of the standard agreement, must be sufficiently simple and explanatory to permit of the farmer's carrying it out with a minimum of supervision.

WEDNESDAY'S SESSION Mr. Manifold and Mr. Hopkins presided on Wednesday, and led a discussion of the demonstration program and personnel recruiting and training. N. R. Bear, Acting Assistant to Mr. Manifold, described some of the problems confronting the Regional staffs in the transition from a demonstration to a district program. No further work will be initiated in States which do not have soil conservation district laws, Mr. Bear said, but it may be possible to establish small demonstration areas within district boundaries. For demonstration projects going on a maintenance basis, careful planning will be needed, he continued, since these projects have immense demonstrational value; but personnel must be kept at a minimum consistent with an orderly program of follow-up.

C. P. Emery, Acting Head of the Personnel Management and Training Section, spoke of the Service's extensive training work during the last few years, and of the hundreds of young foresters, agronomists, and soils men who have been taught the new science of soil conservation. Attention must now be focussed on the schooling of administrative personnel, many of whom are technical men unaccustomed to the amount of responsibility they are now required to shoulder, Mr. Emery said. The Service's experience with college trainees formed another section of his talk.

Roy F. Hendrickson, Assistant Director of Personnel in the Department of Agriculture, addressed the meeting on the Department policy and program for the better selection and development of personnel. He stated that an effort is being made to improve the quality of applicants on Civil Service registers by interviewing outstanding students in schools and colleges and encouraging them to qualify through proper examinations for work in the various bureaus of the Department. Mr. Hendrickson urged maintenance of the highest standards in the Service's personnel management.

THURSDAY'S SESSION On Thursday the conference took up the research program under the chairmanship of W. C. Lowdermilk, Chief of the Research Division, followed by a discussion of Service procedure in conducting watershed and conservations surveys, which Dr. Patrick led.

Dr. Lowdermilk outlined the program for correlation of research and operations in the field, where research stations serve as laboratories to which may be referred questions too complicated to be answered on project areas. The areas will continue to deal with problems arising in connection with the application of known principles and practices, and to apply in the form of field tests the findings of the stations. Research and applications of its findings are being cross-referenced by making operations men assistant project leaders of research projects, Dr. Lowdermilk said.

M. L. Nichols, Assistant Chief of the Research Division, spoke of the mutual benefit to be derived from this closer association of the research and operations divisions of the Service, and R. E. Uhland, of the Research Division, presented facts on the cost and results of evaluation surveys.

The possibility of the Service's administering for erosion-control purposes submarginal lands acquired by the Department under Title 3 of the Farm Tenant Act was Mr. Myer's topic, and R. H. Davis, Head of the Section of Flood Control Surveys, rehearsed the type of organization needed for the detailed flood surveys to be undertaken this summer.

Continuing the flood control discussion, C. E. Ramser, Head of Watershed and Hydrologic Studies, explained that available data on record at the experiment stations, while valuable for small-scale studies, was insufficient for use in determining the effect of land-use planning on flood flows. The Service's 5,000-acre tracts at Coshocton, Ohio, and Waco, Tex., should provide information for studies of flood effects on large areas, Mr. Ramser said.

New techniques in the field of surveys, as described by E. A. Norton, include a study of problem areas, both physiographically and as types. Land factors will be mapped and classified according to features actually observed rather than according to theoretical profile developments.

FRIDAY'S
SESSION H. D. Abbot, Assistant to the Chief in Charge of CCC, presided at the morning conference, and discussed the use of CCC camps in district programs. All camps are to complete their work in their present locations before being moved to new sites, Mr. Abbot said. A. S. Imirie, Assistant Head of the CCC Section, brought up the question of the duties of the Regional Administrator; H. M. Salmon, in charge of CCC personnel, spoke briefly on the need for additional camp leaders, technicians, and clerks; and Mr. Goodacre covered the question of emergency funds and their use in Service programs. J. S. Barnes announced that the committee appointed to study procedure and policy in the use of camps in conservation districts had its report in process of preparation.

In the afternoon, T. B. Chambers, Head of the Engineering Section, described the Service's work in roadside erosion control in cooperation with Federal and State highway agencies. It is the objective of the Service to have at least one demonstration in each State, and it would be desirable to have one man in each Region on full-time highway work, Mr. Chambers said.

The remainder of the session was given over to a general discussion of Service relationships with other agencies in the districts, group inspections of field work, and the problem of surplus equipment.

Mr. Myer was in the chair and formally closed the conference.

Saturday morning, Conservators from the western States held a special meeting, presided over by F. G. Renner of the Division of Conservation Operations, to discuss problems connected with Federal lands and relations to other agencies concerned in their administration. Mr. Myer discussed the Water Facilities Act in its relation to the SCS, Mr. Gaston took up the problem of public lands, and Regional Conservator H. G. Calkins spoke on cooperation with the Indian Service, the Grazing Administration, and other agencies charged with the administration of public lands.

GUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

At Friday's session of the Conservators' meeting, the Chief introduced Undersecretary M. L. Wilson and Paul H. Appleby, Assistant to the Secretary, both of whom spoke briefly.

Mr. Wilson commented on the healthy condition of public interest in the problem of soil conservation, observing that criticism of the program, like a fever, is steadily going down under the influence of antibodies in the blood stream of the body politic.

The Service's demonstration projects were essentially pieces of research, he pointed out, and as such were experimental in nature. Although the new districts will benefit from experience gained on the projects, they, too, must necessarily go through an experimental stage.

All agencies cooperating in the districts should look to their objectives, Mr. Wilson cautioned, and not forget that social engineering will be necessary in this integrated program which, with public support, should make it possible for man and Nature to go along together on a better land.

Mr. Appleby's topic was regional administration, and the new problems it presents in connection with the coordinated program of the various agencies concerned with the conservation of natural resources. Pointing out that there are now at least seven sets of regional boundaries within the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Appleby said that increased specialization has reached the place where synthesis is necessary.

The Soil Conservation Service, Mr. Appleby continued, together with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, and all other bureaus with related farm programs, must think in terms of the Department as a whole if they are to work out a modern social policy for agriculture. Each of the Regional Conservators was presented by the Chief to Mr. Appleby after he had finished speaking.

CONSERVATION CAMPS CONTINUED

President Roosevelt, in his recent message to the Congress on recovery and relief, recommended the appropriation of an additional \$51,500,000 to maintain the present strength of the CCC.

A joint resolution to this effect, sponsored by Representative Clifford A. Woodrum of Virginia, has passed both Houses. Fifty-six Soil Conservation camps were scheduled to be dropped this spring under the original plan to reduce the total number of CCC camps from 1,500 to 1,200. In an American Institute of Public Opinion poll made public last week, 78 percent of the U. S. voters interviewed answered "Yes" to the question, "Do you think the CCC should be made permanent?"

REGION 8 INSPECTION

F. G. Renner, of the Division of Conservation Operations, is chairman of the inspection group which left for the Southwest Region on April 17. With him went John F. Preston and Ervin J. Utz, Heads of the Sections of Woodland Management and Erosion Control Practices, respectively. William E. McLendon, of the Section of Conservation Surveys, joined the party in the field, where they expect to be until the middle of May.

HOW TO STORE THE RAINFALL

"Grassland," mentioned in the last issue of SERVICE NEWS, and "Rain on the Plains," the service's newest motion picture, were shown in the South Building as a prelude to the Regional Conservators' meeting.

While the narrative of "Rain on the Plains" recalls the spring of 1934, when cities on the eastern seaboard were coated with dust blown across

the country from the Great Plains, the reel shows first the approach of a dust storm and then the destruction of the land over which it passed.

The remainder of the film, a one-reel short, presents measures taken by the Soil Conservation Service to control wind erosion: contour furrowing, lister plowing, planting of strips of wind-resistant crops and quick-growing trees, retention of stubble, construction of dams and stock ponds, prevention of overgrazing, and retirement of land essentially destroyed. The narrative emphasizes the point that sufficient rain falls upon the Plains to keep them vegetated if it can be effectively stored.

Reed Haythorne and Gordon K. Zimmerman, both of the Section of Information, are responsible for the photography and the narration, respectively, and the Division of Motion Pictures collaborated with the Soil Conservation Service in making the film.

SPEEDY REPORTING FROM REGION 10

By utilizing the services of all project technicians and by putting in hours of overtime work, a comprehensive report on erosion damage resulting from the March floods in California was dispatched from Region 10 to reach the Chief's desk less than 30 days after the event.

The stout volume contains some 75 detailed charts listing graduated soil losses on fields in project areas classified according to slope, soil type, land use, cover, previous erosion class, type of treatment, and degree of gullyng, together with 100 pages of explanatory text, and a selection of letters received from cooperators.

Figures were obtained by measuring typical cross-sections of each field and computing the average depth of soil loss -- the only method possible in the short time allotted to the survey, Regional Engineer J. G. Bamesberger, who prepared the report, explained. He feels that the margin of error is slight, and that the volume of material now on file will be most valuable for future project studies.

NEW CARTOGRAPHY HEAD

Field Inspector J. M. Snyder, of the Division of Conservation Operations, has been appointed Acting Head of the Section of Cartography, Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, to replace E. A. Schuch, who will return to private business.

INSULAR PROBLEMS
TO BE STUDIED

The Division of Conservation Operations is sending Inspection Engineer William X. Hull to Puerto Rico for two weeks to go over the operations program with staff members there. Mr. Hull's knowledge of all phases of conservation work in this country and his familiarity with tropical America fit him to be of assistance in reviewing the particular problems in the island.

Mr. Hull sailed from New York on April 21, accompanied by Engineer Frank H. Knapp of the Albuquerque office, who has been detailed to the Virgin Islands for three months at the request of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Mr. Knapp is to make a study of each of the Islands and prepare a plan for a conservation program to be carried out as a basic CCC project.

SCS PUBLICATION RECORD

The first official printed bulletin of the Soil Conservation Service was issued in August 1936. Since then 152,196 Miscellaneous Publications, 36,400 Circulars, 12,225 Technical Bulletins, 234,000 Farmers' Bulletins, and 145,400 Unnumbered Publications have been distributed by the Service. The grand total is 580,221. Some 200,000 mimeographed copies of speeches, lectures, handbooks, manuals and similar informational material originating in the Service have been distributed.

Publications now on the press and the latest information concerning them: "Terracing for Soil and Water Conservation" (Farmers' Bull.), by C. L. Hamilton, page proof returned to G. P. O. April 6; "Native Woody Plants of the United States, Their Erosion Control and Wildlife Values" (Misc. Pub.), galley proof returned to G. P. O. April 11; and "Bibliography on Erosion and Soil and Water Conservation" (Misc. Pub.), compiled by Stanley H. Gaines, manuscript went to G. P. O. April 11.

Manuscripts edited and approved for publication by the Service and now receiving final interbureau inspection are: "Conservation Farming in the Central Great Plains" (Unnumbered Pub.), by U. S. Soil Conservation Service; "Soil Defense in the South" (Farmers' Bull.); by E. M. Rowalt; "Soil Defense in the Northeast" (Farmers' Bull.), by Glenn K. Rule; "Erosion on Roads and Adjacent Lands" (Leaflet), by Arnold M. Davis. and "Soil Conservation Survey of the Froid Demonstration Project, Montana" (Technical Bull.), by W. C. Boatright.

Manuscripts approved or being prepared for publication by the Service and now undergoing editorial preparation are: "The Role of Grasses in Soil Conservation" (Farmers' Bull.), by M. M. Hoover; "Woodland Management for Soil Conservation" (Farmers' Bull.), by the Woodland Management Section; "Legumes in Soil Conservation Practices" (Leaflet), by A. J. Pieters; "Soil-Depleting, Soil-Conserving, and Soil-Building Crops" (Leaflet), by A. J. Pieters; "Principles of Gully Erosion in the Piedmont of South Carolina" (Tech. Bull.), by H. A. Ireland, C. F. S. Sharpe, and D. H. Eargle; "Conservation Survey of the Minot and Bottineau Areas, North Dakota" (Tech. Bull.), by Nicholas Holowaychuk and W. C. Boatright.

Just off the press as this issue of SERVICE NEWS appears is "Erosion and Its Control in Oklahoma Territory" (Misc. Pub.), by Angus McDonald. The current status of proposed publications will be given in future issues of SERVICE NEWS.

YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

Betty Wheelock, thirteen, of Corsicana, Tex., introduced as "the youngest soil conservationist," and the Chief, "the Dean of soil conservationists," held a fifteen-minute radio conversation over the Mutual Network last week. Betty is one of the 70 Camp Fire girls visiting Washington in charge of Miss Ruth Stephens, who also took part in the program. Conservation was the objective of Camp Fire study groups last year, and Betty visited the Service's CCC camp at Corsicana, is now assisting her father to inaugurate soil-saving methods on his 1,200-acre farm.

The Service's regular weekly radio program will be given on Tuesday instead of Monday, beginning April 26, and will be moved back to the 11:30--12:30 hour to conform with the shift to Daylight Saving Time.

